



# Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section

November, 2022



## Clubs & POTA Loving Autumn

### Items of Interest in this edition

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12/3/22 - Skywarn Recognition Day

1/14/23 TechFest - Lawrenceville

[www.Techfest.info](http://www.Techfest.info)

2/11/23 State ARES Meeting - GPSTC

4/1-2/23 - Georgia Park POTA Day

2/25/23 Dalton Hamfest - Dalton

[www.facebook.com/DaltonAmateurRadioClub/](https://www.facebook.com/DaltonAmateurRadioClub/)

6/3/23 Atlanta Hamfest

[www.atlantahamfest.org](http://www.atlantahamfest.org)

**Georgia on My Mind** is a monthly newsletter of the ARRL, Georgia Section, highlighting the activities of Amateur Radio Operators and Clubs within the State.

To submit pictures, articles, or notices, please email the editor Karen Spradlin, K4LJS, at [GeorgiaSectionARRL@gmail.com](mailto:GeorgiaSectionARRL@gmail.com)

To see previous issues of **Georgia on My Mind**:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DOPUoxeBBLi8coZB6fDrLYbal9_9pN?usp=sharing)

[folders/1DOPUoxeBBLi8coZB6fDrLYbal9\\_9pN?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DOPUoxeBBLi8coZB6fDrLYbal9_9pN?usp=sharing)



# ARRL School Club Roundup

## McConnell Middle School - Gwinnett County

ARRL's School Club Roundup was held the week of October 17th and our radio club at McConnell Middle School turned in a great performance. Our club this year has many 6th graders with a couple of returning "old timers" (7th graders). Throughout the week we were calling CQ or pouncing with most of our success occurring between 14.250 and 14.280 (ARRL recommendation). This year we totaled 1785 points, which is almost double our last year's score. We contacted 15 states and 1 Canadian province, including six of the schools who were working the contest. Three DX contacts were made. (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Wales, and Guadeloupe) The map shows all the states we contacted, but I wanted to show it for another reason. I believe it perfectly shows what happens when you combine the "launch angle" of a 20M dipole, and atmospheric "skip."

No close-in contacts were made. Any Georgia contacts made were on 2M.

I want to thank the few GARS members that made contact during the week. Much of our club's success is due to GARS support.



## LaFayette Middle School - Walker County

What a day!! We have started off school club roundup week with a bang! The 20 meter band was our friend on Monday.

Tuesday we had a special guest and a local celebrity for the Rambler Radio Club, David. David is 8 years old and already has his amateur radio license! David made 9 contacts for the Ramblers and helped us to gain over 1,000 points for the day! We hope to see David and his family back on Wednesday. We will also be on the 40 meter band on Wednesday! We hope to hear our local ham friends on the air today.

Wednesday our students had an outstanding performance with 118 contacts!!

Current Claimed Score: **33,439**

Current Total Contacts: **281**

Current Total Time on-air: **14hrs, 30min**

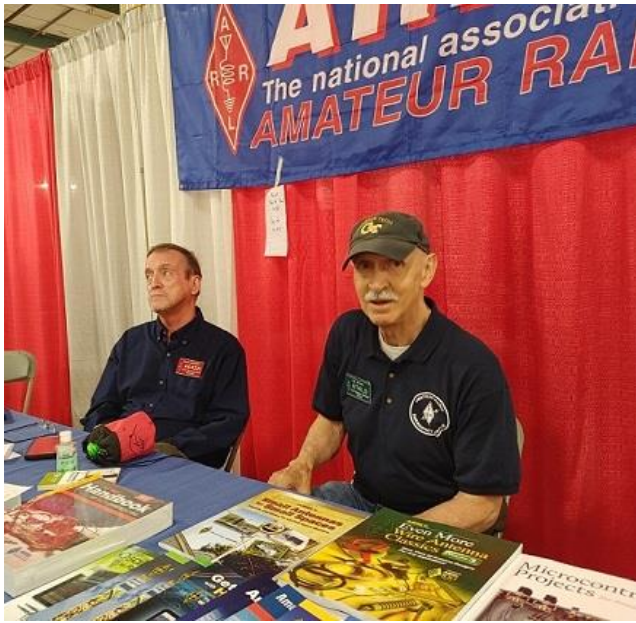
States / Canadian Provinces Contacted: **38**

Countries Contacted: Belize, Canada, Cuba, Italy





# Stone Mountain Hamfest





# Radio Club News

## North Georgia Amateur Radio Club - W4QQ

Skills Day - Thanks to all the presenters:

Russ K4WQS had a complete station set up outside running on batteries and solar power panels. FT-991 transceiver, tuner, meter and even including a kW amplifier. He had everyone watching that for the first presentation of the day. Very nice solar panels for recharging the large batteries he has for running the station. He has a large inverter to allow the AC powered items like the amp to also be used in a portable situation if needed.

Then Paul W4DUI did a program on soldering skills and had a handout also. Only Mike KO4MIK ended up actually soldering up the NFARL CW code practice oscillator kit and it worked well when he finished. Congratulations to Mike on his accomplishment. We had plenty of soldering stations available as quite a few of our members brought stuff for that beyond the four stations I had available here. Maybe next time we'll have more folks wanting to get their irons hot!

After lunch I (Bob W4ZST) started my presentation on oscilloscopes and troubleshooting. I think I got sidetracked some and really didn't end up getting to the troubleshooting part. I will try to put a video together that can be posted on the club web pages to complete my presentation. Some info about o'scope controls, operation and limitations were discussed. I had set things up as a Zoom meeting so that folks wouldn't have to try to look over my shoulder. I zoomed to the five 43" 4K TV monitors in the shack so everyone could see pretty well and not be crowded and I think that worked pretty well.

Then Brad KM4QHI did his presentation on the SDR Play receiver and it's associated software program SDR Uno. We had kind of run over on time and many folks ended up leaving around that time. (Like I said, we need a good scheduler!) I had offered the Zoom meeting set up to Brad also but there were only a handful left and it was easy to use only one of the monitors. The SDR receivers are very good and can do so much. They also cover much larger frequency ranges that most of our traditional radios do. Brad covered frequencies from the VLF region all the way up to 2 GHz which is the limit of the SDR Play. Very interesting presentation and many hams are using SDR receivers in addition to the

RX in their transceivers and in many cases exclusively instead of the transceiver RX. SDR technology is fantastic and continuing to advance the state of the art all the time.

Smiley KZ4ZK had his portable WinLink set up in his truck also on display for show and tell all day to those interested.

Smiley KZ4KX, Russ K4WQS, Paul W4DUI, Bob W4ZST, Brad KM4QHI, Donald KI4MZC, Jim KD1I, Chuck W4CAG, Curt W4DPM, Ashton KJ4AMA, Rich KM4JDF and David K4XRT were the thirteen folks here for the skills day.

*73, Bob W4ZST*

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## Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Fall HamCram class was conducted on the weekend of October 29th. The HamCram leadership team reported this medium sized group of folks wishing to become Amateur Radio Operators had a 100% pass rate. Congratulations to the new Technician Class Hams!

A big thanks to the instructors: Jamie (KX4HA), Ralph (KJ4CNC) and John (WB4QDX) for producing an extraordinary new class of hams. Of course, we wouldn't have this new class of new hams without the extraordinary VE Test Team led by Dave (W4DTR). This team also uses a new electronic testing system, where the tests are taken using tablet/pc device making administering, grading and sending exam results to the W5YI group a more efficient process and returning newly issued licenses to the new hams. Thanks VE Team!!

Oct. 11 - The best turnout! Tonight's 'Show-N-Tell' program was fun seeing the different things folks use to help make their technical Radio lives just a bit better. One of our SNT guests was Fred, VK2WS, and he gave us the rundown on Ham Radio from Down Under.



# Radio Club News

## Thomasville Amateur Radio Club

Next on the list of special events was the Spaghetti 100 Bicycle Race. During the September club meeting, Todd Clark - KN4FCC spoke about the race and requested volunteers to assist the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society – K4TLH in manning support locations along the bicycle route. The event was on October the 8th and Alan –N4KGT was the NCS for the net. There were a few difficulties using the assigned repeater so a few different repeaters and simplex frequencies had to be used to communicate. We all had a great time and enjoyed seeing bicycles come through and cheered them along. We will definitely help again.

October the 22nd was slated for a South Georgia POTA event. The wildly popular Parks On The Air program has re-energized record numbers of amateur radio operators. A couple of the south's most prolific POTA hams in the Colquitt County Ham Radio Society local to Moultrie spearheaded the organization of this event. Robbie-W1RCP and Eddie-KO4NLL recruited the Albany Amateur Radio Club from Albany, The Coastal Plains Amateur Radio Club from Tifton, The South Georgia Amateur Radio Club from Valdosta, the Thomasville Amateur Radio Club from Thomasville and the Radio Club from the Valdosta University.

We were to set up in the local River Creek WMA K-3770 outside of Thomasville. The site scouting trip was not very welcoming. Parking and station setup was going to be a major problem as much of the land is undeveloped for vehicle use. The site would be great for a single station but multiple stations would tax the location. Plus, add the fact that it would be opening day for deer season and you needed to have a valid hunting, fishing or land use license was pushing the envelope a bit.

We decided to move to K-1896 the Letchworth-Love Mounds State Park outside to Monticello FL. The scouting trip there proved that this park would be a lot more welcoming. It had a nice sized parking lot and space to spread out and setup stations. The park ranger Mr. Kelly was very welcoming, as long as



we followed the park rules of no ground penetration and no hanging supports from the trees. We were cleared to go and proceeded to set-up. There were some operational difficulties as we failed to get the park officially activated. There were problems with the club call, W4UCJ, registration on the POTA web site and it went downhill for me personally. I did make one QRP SSB contact to another park. So it wasn't a total failure.

Ken –K04LTF made a few contacts and so did Larry-KG4YZF. We had a great time and got to socialize in a pleasant park setting. We will have to get back there in the near future.

The Final event for the month was the Boston Mini Marathon in Boston GA. This was the 43rd annual race for the Boston Mini Marathon and Festival. We have supported this event for as long as I have been a ham. Pat - KO4IBP and Sean – KF4UPT helped at the NCS station as we setup for the race. Homer – KN4UTJ, Larry – KG4YZF and Ken– KO4LTF manned various mile locations along the in and out race route. The race started at 08:00 am and continued till around 13:00. The 5K run started around 08:15 and the 5k Walk started around 08:45. A special thanks to Sean –KF4UPT for the use of a working antenna.

So, in conclusion to the month of October 2022, Thanks to all who participated and get your friends out and enjoy some "air" time. See ya'll on the radio.  
*Andy – NX4AC*





# Radio Club News

## Dalton Radio Club

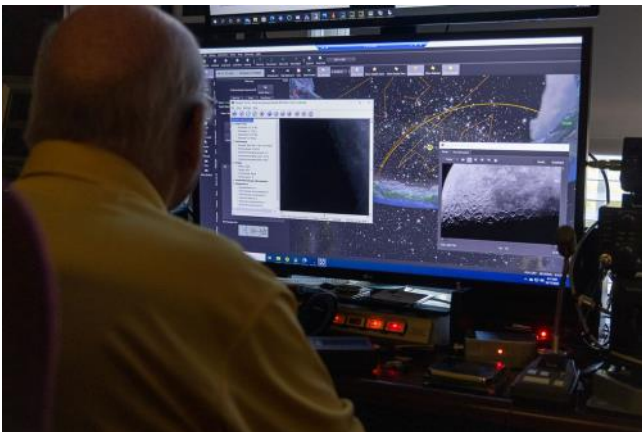
If you are in the northwest Georgia, southeast Tennessee or northeast Alabama areas, please join the first Catoosa County Georgia ARES net tonight and every Friday at 8pm. It will be on the W4GTA 145.350 (minus offset with 100hz tone) Lookout Mountain repeater, which is linked to the N4LMC 146.640 (minus offset with 146.2 tone) Signal Mountain repeater.

## Atlanta Radio Club

One of our members and Friday lunch regulars, Tom Crowley, KT4XN, is an amateur optical astronomer and radio astronomer. He volunteers at Georgia Tech conducting public tours of their telescopes as well as K-12 events.

Because of his engineering (and ham radio) experience, Georgia Tech sends him to Hawaii from time to time to support their telescopes there. He's a smart guy.

The AJC published a nice article about him today.  
[https://www.ajc.com/inspire/georgia-techs-aloha-telescope-brings-thrilling-images-to-k-12-classrooms/QCVO4IVQVFA5DII52M44DZXIS4/?fbclid=IwAR1Z5hWUFF741znL5DUJKNWBQyVtN\\_iz16kWs3Wfxy-L7xMpz-2I6CUF0Bo](https://www.ajc.com/inspire/georgia-techs-aloha-telescope-brings-thrilling-images-to-k-12-classrooms/QCVO4IVQVFA5DII52M44DZXIS4/?fbclid=IwAR1Z5hWUFF741znL5DUJKNWBQyVtN_iz16kWs3Wfxy-L7xMpz-2I6CUF0Bo)



## Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society

The K4WOC club Picnic/POTA event at Carter's Lake Saturday 10/29 had multiple activations accomplished and some great socializing. Thanks to all who participated and a special shout out to AK4SL Michael for the chef duties we're looking forward to another one in the spring!

A great outing at Carters Saturday. Thanks to our members and our visitors that came out. Gil, Kelly, and Steve setup station for the POTA activation, with several folks activating, including myself for the first time. With 30 contacts between phone and FT8, just myself.

Thanks to everyone for the food. Also to the Bryson Family cooking team. Who prepared the hotdogs and hamburgers.

Thanks to Melinda for the home cooked potato salad, baked beans, and pecan pie. Yum, Yum!!





# POTA

## Chattooga Amateur Radio Club

Canyon Fest pic's from our joint venture with the DeKalb ARC...

A good time was had by all, and we got to meet a few prospects and new hams alike! Our POTA ops made close to 300 contacts and I believe our attendance generated a good bit of understanding of this wonder called HAM Radio!

Here's a few more pics, and some I outright stole from DARC. I wish I had gone inside and got some of the vendors, but maybe next year!

Steve - K4SOW



## Silver Comet Radio Club

I don't remember my final contact count, but I activated four Parks On The Air sites. My favorite contact was a SSB contact with a guy in Canada. He was transmitting 10w, and I had 5w. My antenna was a 29' piece of wire hanging from a 32' push up mast and a home made 9:1 balun.

Dan Ozment W4DTO

- Laura S Walker State Park K-2188
- Dixon Memorial State Forest K-4651
- Dixon Memorial Wildlife Management Area K-3746
- Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge K-0263



## Coastal Amateur Radio Society

Savannah, Wednesday No Work Club group

11/2/22 activation at Wormsloe South, Jack, NW4TF, on the mic, Billy KG4SZS logging; with Russ K4YGD Bryan N4GSP and Lowell NY4D offering moral support.

Worked 40M then up to 20M for 95 contacts, several park to park.

Out of view on the no wake sign behind the trees, is a Bald Eagle taking in the action in between fishing.





# Upcoming

## POTA

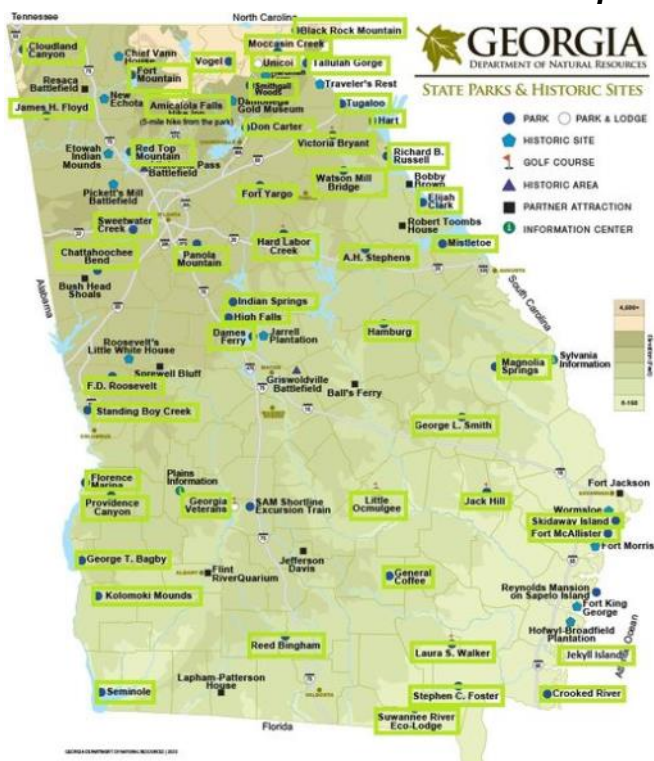
**Mark the Date!** This is a very early heads up that on the weekend of **April 1-2, 2023**, there will be state-wide POTA activations of **all 50 Georgia State Parks!** Right. The idea is to enlist enough hams from all over to fan out across the state and activate 50 parks over the course of that one weekend. You've probably seen other states activating all of their parks on one weekend, and now Georgia will be doing the same. Details are still being worked out, but there will be a process for individuals, clubs, and ARES groups to sign up for particular parks, with the possibility that several parks will see multiple activators. In addition to regular POTA credits, there will also be recognition for contacts and activations during the event, including Georgia park-to-park contacts. And because POTA activations are good training for ARES deployments, there will even be a little "friendly competition" among ARES groups. This should be a ton of fun.

We will have a website where details, signups, etc., will be posted. In the meantime, keep an eye on the event description and comments on the "Georgia Ham Radio Portable" Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/568831084998544>

This event should be memorable, so we're hoping to get it on members' calendars now. Thanks for your help. Let me know if you need anything else,

**73 Skip K4EAK**



## Skywarn Recognition Day

### Date

NWS stations may operate at any time during December 3, 2022 from 0000 - 2400 UTC.



### Objective

Skwarn™ Recognition Day serves to celebrate the contributions to public safety made by amateur radio operators Skywarn™ Spotters during threatening weather.

Amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service Stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus the 70 centimeter band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted.

Non-Amateur Radio Spotters to exchange weather information as often as possible via Social Media with NWS Offices.

### Exchange:

Call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of the weather occurring at your site ("sunny", "partly cloudy", "windy", etc.).

### Modes:

NWS stations will work various modes including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31. While working digital modes, special event stations will append "NWS" to their call sign (e.g., N0A/NWS). NWS offices may also participate via Social Media platforms throughout the 24 hour period.

### Station Control Operator:

It is suggested that during SRD operations a non-NWS volunteer should serve as a control operator for your station.

### Event and QSL Information:

The National Weather Service will provide event information via the internet. Event certificates will once again be electronic and printable from the main website after the conclusion of SRD.

<https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition>



# Dots, Dashes & Tidbits

Congratulations to Hank Blackwood K4HYJ for being appointed a GA ARES Winlink Net NCS! Hank is generously giving his time to help build skills and experience within GA ARES, essential to supporting our served agencies.

If you are looking to learn or improve your Winlink skills, the GA ARES Winlink Net operates every Sunday from 12:01 AM Sunday Morning to 4:00 PM Sunday Afternoon (EST). Additional information can be found at: [GA ARES RMS Winlink \(gaares.org\)](http://gaares.org)

The Winlink Net Team looks forward to your participation.

Russell AB4QQ

Winlink Net Manager, GA Section

Preparations for the GA ARES State Meeting 2023 are underway! The meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2023, at Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) in Forsyth, GA.

Training/information forums will again be a large part of the meeting. To provide sessions that are of the most interest to attendees, we request that you complete a short survey. This information enables us to plan sessions which match the interests of meeting attendees.

The survey is available at the time that you receive this message until end of day on November 26. This is an anonymous survey. The only identification request is for your district.

**Survey Link** [https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=g9GMXRZI\\_E2UMhQe-fzlib-5itvm4AdChbYxdMIFn2BUMzFOTDMxNFRQQjVL-NUxRU0U1QkZaUUU3Ty4u](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=g9GMXRZI_E2UMhQe-fzlib-5itvm4AdChbYxdMIFn2BUMzFOTDMxNFRQQjVL-NUxRU0U1QkZaUUU3Ty4u)

I would like to recognize the following GA ARES members who participated in the subject event on November 12, 2022. This listing is only those who were able to contact ETO Region 04, Channel 4, Station AB4QQ.

VARA HF P2P: AD4MC, K9EKO, K9HRO,  
KO4ILY, N4BTA, ND1J, WA4LIK  
Via CC: VARA: AB4NW, AD4MC

Thanks to the above individuals for participating in the ETO Semi-Annual Drill. Their participation helps build skills and experience essential to supporting our served agencies.

*Russell AB4QQ*

## Georgia Section Nets

### **ARES Phone & Digital Nets**

*Note: GA ARES Net information can be found at [gaares.org](http://gaares.org) – Select Nets & Frequencies*

### **Georgia Section ARES Net:**

Section Net Manager – Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

[kn4qj@arrl.net](mailto:kn4qj@arrl.net)

Net control operator – Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

Alt. net control operator – Jim Altman, W4UCK

### **Georgia Section ARES Digital Nets:**

Section Digital Net Manager, Don Jones, K4GO

[k4go@arrl.net](mailto:k4go@arrl.net)

*Digital Team Leaders also serve as net control operators.*

**Winlink** Team Lead, Russell Prevost, AB4QQ

Net control operators: Brian Freeman KN4DLT, Mark Bell N7GRB, Bill Hall K9HRO

**PSK & Traffic Nets** Team Lead, Del Davis, W4DEL  
Net control operators: Bob Garza K4TLG, Don Jones K4GO Ken Wallis KM4HOS, Richard Austin W4BYT

**D-RATS Net** Team Lead, Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ  
Net control operators: Rial Sloan AI4ZV, Brian Freeman KN4DLT, Ed Walraven KM4IOA, Carter Grant KN4KBL

Yusef has another YouTube video! Check it out!  
ROTA Rivers on the Air <https://youtu.be/nAoct6jkad0>

## **A.R.E.S. Monthly Report for October 2022**

Number of DECs/ECs reporting - 43

Number of ARES nets - 983

Nets with NTS liaison - 5

Number of Exercises &

Training Sessions - 457 (2920 hrs.)

Number of Public Service events - 32 (583 hrs.)

Number of Emergency Operations - 2 (2 hrs.)

Number of SkyWarn Operations - 4 (8 hrs.)

**Total of 495 Exercises & Events**

**Total of 3,513 person hours**